

Appl. No. 10/528,494
Amdt. Date: 06/11/2007
Reply to Office Action of January 11, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This response is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed January 11, 2007 in the above-captioned application.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Biewer (3,837,309). Reconsideration is respectfully requested. It is believed that the claims remaining in the application are patentably distinguishable over the cited reference for the reasons hereinafter set forth.

An anticipating reference must disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. Biewer, however fails to teach, show or suggest removable temporary buoyancy means mounted on the distal ends of pontoons extending radially outwardly from a central column of the platform supporting one or more decks above the water surface of a body of water. Biewer discloses a multi-column platform having a lower hull (22, 222). Buoys (26, 226) are secured at the corners of the hull (22, 222) as shown in Figs. 3 and 20 by universal couplings 28. Furthermore, the buoys (26, 226) are not hingedly secured to the hull (22, 222). The couplings 28 provide for swayable movement of the buoys (26, 226) relative to the lower hull (22, 222) and as shown in Fig. 2, float on the water surface when deballasted, not on top of pontoons extending radially outwardly from a central column forming the hull of the platform. With regard to claim 5, it is respectfully submitted that Biewer does not teach, show or suggest hingedly secured temporary buoyancy means, nor connecting a platform to pre-installed tendons, nor removing the

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temporary buoyancy means at the installation draft, nor deballasting to develop tendon pre-tension. In fact, Biewer makes no mention of tendons anchoring the hull (22, 222) to the sea bed. Rather, when the platform of Biewer is in situ and made ready for working, the tanks 24 are ballasted to submerge the lower hull (22, 222) (column 3, lines 8-10). It is believed therefore that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is not proper and it is respectfully requested that it be withdrawn.

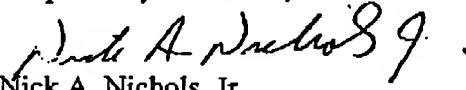
Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 3 and 6 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Biewer in view of Husvik et al. (6,022,174). For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that Biewer fails to teach, show or suggest the Applicant's invention as claimed in claims 1 and 5, the remaining independent claims in the application, which claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Consequently, the claims depending therefrom are also in condition for allowance.

The citation of the prior art made of record and not relied upon is noted. However, it is believed that the prior art not relied upon is no more pertinent than the applied references, and therefore a detailed discussion of the prior art not relied upon is not deemed necessary for a full and complete response to the outstanding office action.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,


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